

COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES WASHINGTON, D.C. 13541

E-178911

August 1.27, 1973

Ms. Carmella J. Rizzo Authorized Certifying Officer Internal Revenue Service U. S. Treasury Department 2 Penn Center Plaza Philadelphia, Ponnsylvania 19102

Dear lis. Rizzo:

Reference is made to your letter of Hay 30, 1973, reference A:F:F:V, concerning the disallowence of a house hunting expense claim for \$57.26 of Mr. Emmett Cameron.

Hr. Cameron was transferred from Jackson, Hissiosippi, to Atlanta, Georgia, effective September 3, 1972, and was transferred from that duty station to Richmond, Virginia, in March 1973. In connection with the first transfer Hr. Camaron and spouse were authorized round-trip travel to the new official station to seek residence quarters. Both the employee and his spouse were also nuthorized such travel in connection with the second transfer. However, Hr. Cameron's family remained in Jackson during the period he was assigned to Atlanta and his spouse did act perform the round-trip travel authorized until Harch 1973 when she traveled from Jackson to Kichmond in connection with the second transfer. Mr. Camaron's claim for raimburacheut of the costs involved in that travel was disallowed to the extent that the cost of wir travel as performed from Jackson to Richmond and return exceeded the cost of round-trip travel between Atlanta and Richmond. The reclaim voucher you subtricted with your letter is for reinbursement of the amount which was disallowed.

In the decision 27 Comp. Gen. 267 (1948) we held that an employee who is transferred from one official station to another and who before shipment of his household goods to such new station is transferred to a third station within the two-year allowable pariod is entitled to reinbursaient for eniplient of his housahold goods from the first to the third station. In the decision 48 Comp. Gen. 651 (1969) it was held that a similar rule should be applied to the reinbursement of an employee for the travel of his immediate family.

We see no reason for applying a different rule in cases involving round-trip travel to sack residence quarters as authorized under 5 U.S.C. 5724a(a)(2) and section 7 of Office of Management and Budget Circular

MONSMA For LOBURGIO 8-17-73

PUTUREED DECISION 53 Cemp. Gen.

2. In Sulfivery, FILE COPY - COMP GEN

No. A-56, effective September 1, 1971, effective at the time the travel in question was performed, now paragraph 2.4 of the Federal Travel Regulations (FPMR 101-7). This is particularly true where, as here, the spouse who went on the house hunting trip never moved from the original duty station.

Accordingly, the voucher which is returned herewith may be certified for payment.

Sincerely yours.

laul G. Demoling

For the Comptroller General of the United States

Euclosure